



Padre Island National Seashore **SandDollar**



Friday, August 27, 2004

Superintendent

In the continuous effort to promote enhanced communications here at PAIS, I want to let everyone know of one more communication effort. In addition to changes made to the Sand Dollar, development of PAIS Today, and increased use of the employee suggestion box, there will soon be the "electronic blues." Posted in a folder on the parks shared drive, will be most of the signed external correspondence that is distributed from my office. My hope is that the blues will enhance knowledge and understanding of park business.

In addition to the electronic blues, we are developing a series of park Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) to provide guidance in decision making and answer procedural questions that may arise. Development of a complete set of SOP's will take several months, and is never truly complete since SOP's, by purpose, are adaptive and responsive to changing circumstances. Soon to be posted in a folder on the parks shared drive will be the park SOP's.

I am committed that our collective work sites will be as safe as possible. In part, this means we all deserve a work site that is free from harassment in any form. Every employee of Padre Island National Seashore must be aware that sexual harassment,

or any action that demeans the dignity of others, will not be tolerated. We all have a responsibility to maintain a work environment that is free from all forms of harassment.

Take care of this place and each other, everything else will fall into place.

Stay safe!

Colin

Colin's schedule:

Monday, 8/30	– Training in Denver, CO
Tuesday, 8/31	– Training in Denver, CO
Wed., 9/01	– Training in Denver, CO
Thurs., 8/02	– Training in Denver, CO
Friday, 8/03	– Training in Denver, CO

Safety Notes--

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.
Make it a safe day.

Randy Larson reminds us all to drive extra special careful now that school has started. There are lots of little people out and about.

Remember to drink lots of water during this hot weather.

Employees Association News –

SUPER RAFFLE TICKETS that support the Association of National Park Rangers, ANPR, are available through Pat Donohue. The tickets are \$5 each. The raffle will be held at the 27th Ranger Rendezvous on Friday, Nov.19, 2004, in Rapid City South Dakota. Ticket sales end NOV. 1. If you want to buy a lot let me know ASAP so I can order more tickets. You do NOT need to be present to win. You will be notified by mail by Dec.15, 2004.

The prizes:

- 1st \$4000 "roll-your-own-trip" or \$2000 cash.
- 2nd \$2000 "roll-your-own-trip" or \$1000 cash.
- 3rd Bose Wave radio with CD player.
- 4th Tom Till's print, "Green River Overlook," signed and framed (16 x 20).
- 5th Marc Muench's print, "Mount Rushmore Overlook," signed and framed (12 x 16).

BLOOD DRIVES

The Coastal Bend Blood Center has asked that we hold only ONE blood drive out in the park per year. We will hold that annual PAIS BLOOD DRIVE in March each year. We are planning around the arrival of the turtle patrol/ Bio. Techs. to boost our number of participants. Please plan to attend this one in-park blood drive.

We are strongly encouraged to continue to donate at different dates and locations in town. (Better freebies in town!!) Check page two of the Local section of the Caller Times for dates, times and locations of blood drives. Remember we can continue to make our donations into the Padre Island National Seashore account. This account is available to any of our employees and their families, who may need blood at no cost to them.

Serious donors can join a new club or committee to be on call for emergency donations and when local blood supplies are low. If you are interested in participating in this program you can contact the Center at 855-4943.

As always, thank you one and all for your willingness to support the Coastal Bend Blood Center in Corpus Christi.

DONATE BLOOD - SAVE A LIFE

Administration

Fegli Open Season Begins in September

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (Fegli) will be from September 1 through September 30, 2004. The program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options that include coverage for up to five times an employee's base salary

plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new federal employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverage available are not changing. During the open season, federal and postal employees will be able to enroll in the program or increase or change current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

UNIFORMS

Within the next 2 1/2 weeks, Cargo Pants and Convertible trousers will appear on the uniform website. Employees will be able to order these items, but they will not be physically in stock with VF Solutions. It may take about 2 months before employees will be able to receive these items. We are putting them on the website now so they can order them before the ordering period ends on August 21st. I would not recommend that seasonal employees order these items yet. They are not in stock. It will take at least 2 months before these items will be shipped out to employees.

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

The trailer will be used on August 25, 31 and Sept. 2 for TEL training.

New Courses:

4 new TEL courses:

August 30th	You Should Know: Federal Employees group Life Insurance
August 31st	Harpers Ferry Center - What We Can Do For You
Sep 10th	Ethics "Train the Trainer"
Sep 15th & 16th	You Should Hear What They Are Missing: Hearing Loss Prevention Program
Sep 16th	Preventing Hearing Loss - Is Sounds Good To Me
Sep 22nd	Position Management and Team Building

FYI - there are several courses in the developmental phase and possible dates:

Sep 10th	DOI Ethics (for Ethics Officers in NPS)
Sep 22nd	Position Management
Sep 29th	Fall Protection

**Sept 30th
Oct 21st**

**An Emerging Leaders Consortium Module
DOI Achieving Our Mission Through Management
Excellence**

NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Managing for Safety Excellence Is The Right Thing to Do!	08/17/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Managing for Safety Excellence Is The Right Thing to Do!	08/17/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Everyone Can Make a Difference!	08/25/2004	Wednesday	10:00-12:00
NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Everyone Can Make a Difference!	08/25/2004	Wednesday	2:00-4:00
Retirement Planning for New Employees	08/26/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
You Should Know: Federal Employees Group Life Insurance	08/30/2004	Monday	1:00-3:00
Harpers Ferry Center - What We Can Do For You	08/31/2004	Tuesday	2:00-3:00
Building a Partnership Workplace	09/02/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00
DOI Ethics - Financial Disclosures	09/08/2004	Wednesday	1:00-3:00
From Huger to Harasser: The True Story Behind Sexual Harassment	09/09/2004	Thursday	10:00-12:00
Communication: The Key to Performance Management	09/09/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	09/13/2004	Monday	2:00-4:00
You Should Hear What They Are Missing: Hearing Loss Prevention Program (attendance is required for both days)	9/15/2004	Wednesday	1:00-4:00
	9/16/2004	Thursday	1:00-2:30
Preventing Hearing Loss - It Sounds Good To Me	09/16/2004	Thursday	3:00-4:30
Managing Performance	09/21/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Position Descriptions: What Every Supervisor Should Know	09/21/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
Taking the Grief Out of Administrative Grievances	09/23/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:30
IDP Interpretive Media Development (Module 311)	09/28/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 1): Tools for Effective Partnering	11/03/2004	Wednesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships	11/04/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00

Facility Management

The new fuel system is up and running. If you have any problems with it, please see Glenda.

The contractor is here this week and should be finishing up the project for the final test.

The force-main contractor will be out soon to demolish the concrete tanks and remove the huge pile of dirt in the rear parking area.

Interpretation

Protection

Resources Management

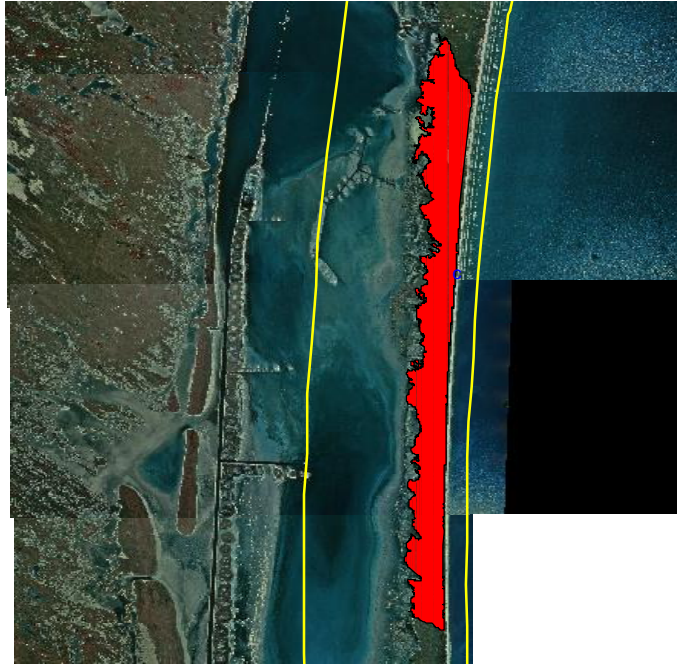
Personnel:

- Darrell is attending an Gulf Coast Inventory and Monitoring meeting in Vicksburg, Mississippi on August 23-27
- Darrell will be attending an Environmental Regulations Course with Colin in Denver on August 30-Sept. 3.
- Arlene will be acting while Darrell is out of the office. Darrell will be back in the office on Monday, September 7.

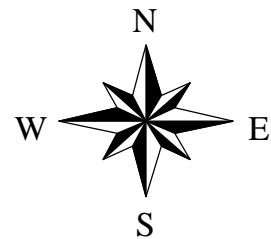
Projects:

- Darrell attended a meeting in Austin with the Southern Plains Network concerning submission of Resource Management project proposals. The network decided to submit all five proposals from the park. The proposals are listed below.
 - Effects of fishing on shark habit and its distribution within the park
 - Marine Debris
 - Burrowing owls
 - Vehicular impacts on barrier island geology
 - Spoil island sign, protecting nesting habitat, replacement.
- The Gulf Coast Inventory and Monitoring Network has funded the mammal inventory by Dr. Jennifer Frey of New Mexico State University. This is a 2 ½ year project that will cost \$160,000.
- The ozone monitor will be installed on September 13 on the view tower roof at the same location site of the TCEQ sampling equipment and the park's dioxin monitor. The monitor is being supplied by the Air Resources Division in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Inventory and Monitoring Network.
- The Back Island Fire burned from August 14-21 between the 17 MM and 28 MM. A total of 4505 acres were burned. Below is a map of the burned area.

Back Fire Island
August 14-21, 2004
4505 acres



- c 20 Mile Marker
- Burned Area



Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

Rachel Blair will be out of the Office from Thursday, August 26 through Wednesday, September 1. Donna will be on Leave from Monday, August 30, through Thursday, September 2. Cynthia Rubio will be acting Chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery during Donna's absence.

Craig Cowan will start work on an intermittent season appointment on Monday, August 30 and will work full time through the month of September. Shara Kilarski will go on intermittent status beginning Sunday, September 5 with her last day at work on full time status on Friday, September 3.

Patrols to the Mansfield Channel are being conducted once per day and will continue through the end of September. Linda Morehead is patrolling on Sundays through Wednesdays and Volunteers on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Division staff are working on a variety of projects in the office. We thank the Maintenance and Administration Divisions for all of their expertise and help with expenditures for the retrofitting the old turtle lab and outfitting the new turtle lab.